

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the section “Brief description of the drawings” on page 9 as follows:

FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram of the architecture of a distributed group key management system, showing Traffic Encryption Key distribution,

FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram of the group key management system of FIG. 1, showing inter-area movement of group members,

FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram of the group key management system of FIG. 1, showing a known rekeying method for inter-area movement of group members,

FIG. 4 is a schematic diagram of the group key management system of FIG. 1, showing another known rekeying method for inter-area movement of group members,

FIG. 5 is a schematic diagram of the group key management system of FIG. 1, showing yet another known rekeying method for inter-area movement of group members,

FIG. 6 is a schematic diagram of a group key management system of the kind shown and for inter-area movement of group members in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, ~~given by way of example, is a flow chart of an example of a rekeying process when a member joins an area in the system of,~~

FIG. 7 is a flow chart of an example of a rekeying process when a member leaves an area in the system of FIG. 6,

FIG. 8 is a flow chart of an example of a rekeying process when a member leaves an area in the system of FIG. 6, and

FIG. 9 is a flow chart of an example of a traffic key reception process in the system of FIG. 6, and[[.]]

FIG. 10 is a flow chart of another example of the traffic key reception process in the system of FIG. 6.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 13 as follows:

The flow charts shown in ~~Figures~~FIGs. 7 to ~~[[9]]~~10 show in more detail examples of the processes that the local GCKS performs in the embodiment of ~~Figure~~FIG. 6 when a new member enters or leaves the area. The processes shown include Group join and leave, as well as movement of a current group member between two areas.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 3 as follows:

If there are no VEK_j -members, the $GCKS_j$ generates a VEK_j key (rather than a new KEK_j) and sends it (optionally, along with the current TEK) to the ~~visiting~~mobile member MM_{ij} in a secure channel, and the KEK_j remains unchanged.